

# SATELLITE NEWS

HOLIDAY 1996

FORMERLY THE BINDING POLYMER, OR MAYBE NOT

VOLUME 8.2

## SCI FI CHANNEL TO THE RESCUE! Brand-New Episodes Start Feb 1st 1997

In an extraordinary turn of good fortune for MST fans and Best Brains paid staff, the Sci-Fi channel has placed an initial order of thirteen brand spankin' new episodes of Mystery Science Theater 3000 to begin airing in February of 1997. The Award-winning cow-town puppet show is said to be bustling with activity, and production of the new season is well underway.

"I'm so darn excited, I forgot to wear pants today!" chirped an embarrassed but leggy BB prexy Jim Mallon. "I'll go home and get pants at lunch, but who needs 'em? We're makin' funny again!"

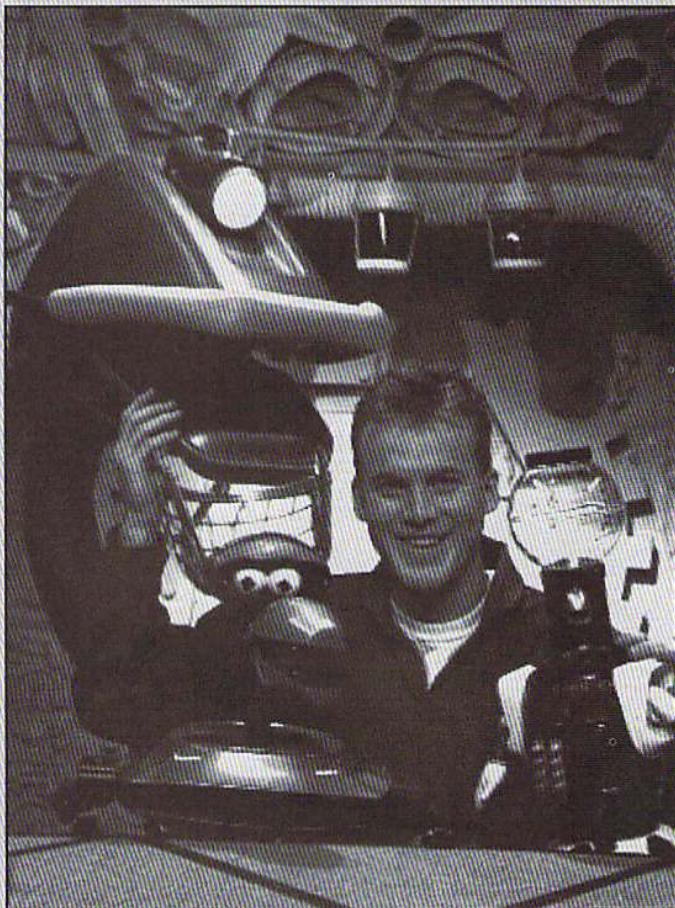
The show, picked up this summer by the Sci-Fi Channel, will see some exciting new changes, which are all being kept quiet. The set is closed, and new plot developments are being kept "very, very ice-blue secret," whispered a clandestine source (Mike Nelson) in a shadowy meeting today. "We've had to lock two reporters in the

broom closet," reported Nelson, "not because they knew anything, but because,...well, I don't know why, but they're not coming out until February!"

Departing from the new shows will be our own Trace Beaulieu, who was fondly sent off by the MSTies this

summer at the ConventioCon. But taking hold of the plucky Crow T. Robot will be our own MST writer Bill Corbett. Bill wrote several episodes of the show during season six, and his acrobatic voice, renown as a playwright, and just plain all-around strangeness made him the best choice. "I just hope they're as kind to me as they were to Mike and Kevin when they replaced Joel and Servo," said an energetic Bill. "All I am saaaaaying, is give Bill a chaaaaaaance!" At this point Bill slipped on finger symbols and went into a dervish-like trance dance, so the interview was over.

Mrs. Pearl Forrester will also be returning to the show, but details of her return have been locked in Mary Jo Pehl's desk by Ms. Pehl and she won't give us the key, and we just can't talk sense to the woman, but we're buying a Johnson bar and more details will be available soon. Meanwhile, Semper Fi Sci-Fi!



The whole Satellite of Love Crew will be back for Season 8

# MEET THE NEW MEAT!

By Bill Corbett

(Editors Note: We are very excited to introduce you to Mr. Bill Corbett, who will be taking over the part of Crow for the next season of MST3K on the Sci-Fi Channel. Bill is a talented and unassuming man, and, well, let's just see what he has to say about himself.)

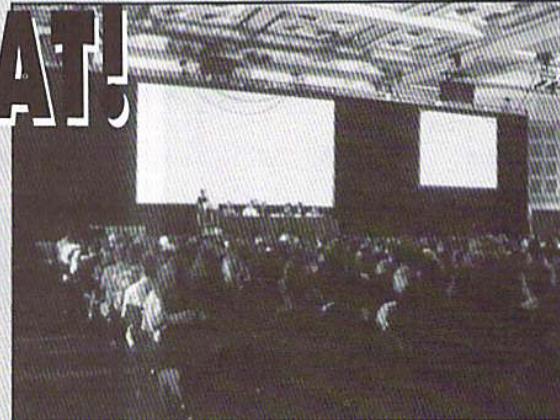
Hi, I'm the new writer here at Mystery Science Theatre 3000. So how's it going, you ask? Every day's an adventure, believe you me. Surrounded by so many creative minds, met with so many challenges in fine-tuning the delicate MST3K brand of humor, and besides that there's my laundry duties (I don't mind—really, I don't).

I'm proud to let you know I've convinced the veterans of this show that we need a fresh new direction. Since Frank left after season six, and now that Trace has moved on—not to mention a new network (we'll be running on the Gardening Channel next year, I believe)—I thought it best to carpe the ol' diem and overhaul the show's once-groundbreaking-but-now-tired premise. So, this very exciting new season of MST 3K will see lots of revitalizing changes, proposed by yours truly.

Mike and the robots will finally escape from space, and settle down in suburban Des Plaines, Illinois. Mike will legally adopt the 'bots, who will be considered "different" in his middle class neighborhood, since they—as you know—originally hail from the neighboring suburb of Downers Grove (major difference). Sit-com vet Shelley Long will make a triumphant return to the small screen playing Mike's wife Shelley Long. Mike will get a job as a five-star Army general, but—for reasons we're still figuring out—spends all his time hanging around the house in full dress uniform and slippers.

Shelley is a poultry inspector with a heart of gold, who strives to juggle career, family and a promising sideline as a clog dancer. The Jerry-and-Millie-Helper-type whacky neighbors are played by Gypsy and perennial fave Bill Daly. And in the noble T.V. tradition of recurring comic lines such as "Kiss my grits" and "Dyn-o-mite", Mike will now have the trademark "Dear God, my spleen!"

During sweeps week, look forward to a Very Special Episode where Crow gets addicted to bovine growth hormone—and while everyone



Bill Corbett (far right) rounds out the cast.

Grows and Learns, they also realize that they've scored a great source of cheap dairy products. At the end of the season, Servo finally realizes his dream of becoming a Real Boy, albeit one with a gumball machine head.

Oh yeah—then there's those movies. There will be a change of emphasis here, as well. From now on we'll only be saying nice things about these films (eg. "That actor is really trying hard!") or we won't say anything at all. Enjoy!

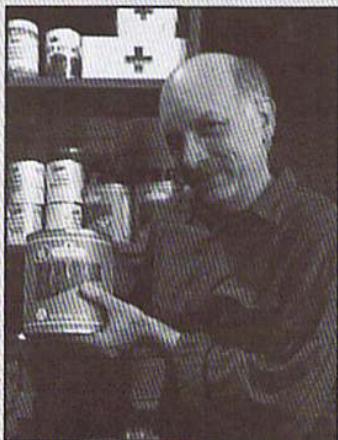
(Editors note: The editors wish it known that after delivering this article, Bill was beaten with a towel full of oranges and released. He is better now.)

## MST PROFILE: MICKEY & NAUNEE

You've seen 'em around Best Brains Events. You've noticed the guy with moustache and the little ponytail, constantly smiling. And the wee fella with the Cheshire-cat grin and ten or twelve cameras around his neck. If you thought they were stalkers that we hired to improve our prestige among so-called "cult" shows, not only are you wrong, but I have the names of a few brief therapists who can do wonders in a just few sessions.

The one with the ponytail is Tom Naunas.

He is a brilliant, award-winning sound recordist, sound effects designer and music composer, just a few of his many talents. Tom did all the music sound on our own Jim Mallon's movie, *Blood Hook*. When he's not winning awards for Wisconsin Public Television or being quoted in Mix Magazine, he occasionally pops up to Minnesota to help us with some hairbrain scheme or another, such as our live shows, and our MST: The Movie.



Although he likes to pose with cans of Hash, Tom Naunas (right) is actually a vegetarian.

Tom is sort of our erstwhile rinpoché, a man of deep tranquility and spiritual evolution. But folks, he's not a Lee van Cleef impersonator; and although he'd never say it, I think it hurts him when he hears this. So next time you see Tom at a Best Brains event, give him a wave. He's bound to return it.

As sharp perched on a ladder backstage at the ConventioCon as he is dangling from an embassy balcony in war-torn Managua, as comfortable rubbing elbows with MSTies as he is feeding his donkey at his cottage in Ireland, there is no creature quite like our own puckish photographer Michael Kienitz. Having known Jim

Mallon since the days of the Pail and Shovel Party, and having documented MST on film every step of the way, Mickey is not so much a fine craftsman for hire as he is a familial artisan. It's like having Picasso live in your barn.

At work, the impish Mickey is always one for a cracking wise and the occasional shenanigan. Slipping around in the shadows, he's hardly seen until he dances into the light and captures

your soul on 64 speed ektachrome. One is reminded, if one is doofy enough, of Tom Bombadil with a Hasselblad.

Without people like Michael and Tom around here, our joy would be diminished. They bring heart, good work, ripping good humor. So we bid Tom a deep bow and a namaste, and we salute Michael with a hearty Irish cheer, pog mahon, Mickey! pog mahon!



Sprightly Mickey Kienitz cavorts with BB Prexy Jim Mallon Backstage.

MYSTERY  
SCIENCE  
THEATER  
3000

# GREAT STUFF YOU CAN BUY

## NEW ITEMS!!



### THE 1997 MYSTERY SCIENCE THEATER CALENDAR

No ordinary calendar, this! MSTies will want to spend February with Mike as Jack Perkins, or July with Tom Servo in his bright red bathrobe, or November in Deep 13! Twelve full color photos, plus interesting dates to note, such as Jimmy Smits' birthday, the day Uranus was discovered, or the day Bob Marley died. You will also find room at the back to record the telephone number for the German Embassy. Item #24 \$15.00

### CHARACTER TEE'S

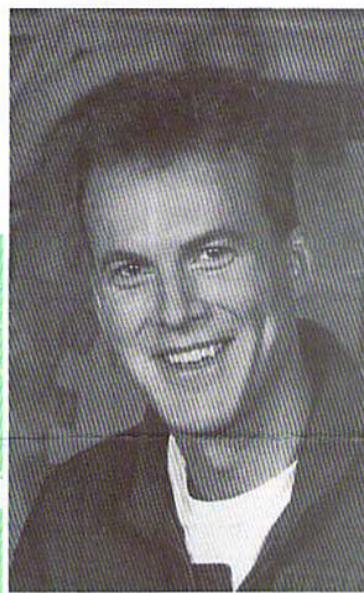
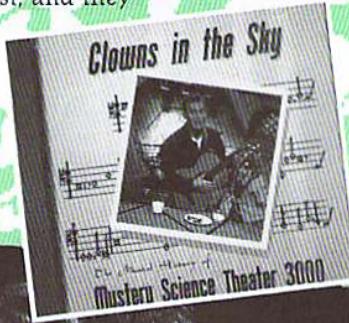
Five great black tees featuring color images of Crow, Servo, Gypsy, Mike or Dr. Forrester! Available in Adult sizes S, M, L, XL-please specify size. Item #29-Crow Item #30-Servo Item #31-Gypsy Item #32-Mike Item #33-Dr. Forrester \$16.00

### CLOWNS IN THE SKY-THE MST CD!

Finally! You can listen to "Tibby, Oh Tibby" as you drive to work, play the theme song at your wedding, or celebrate the holidays with "A Patrick Swayze Christmas"! Twenty nine cuts in all. We introduced this at our Convention in August, and they

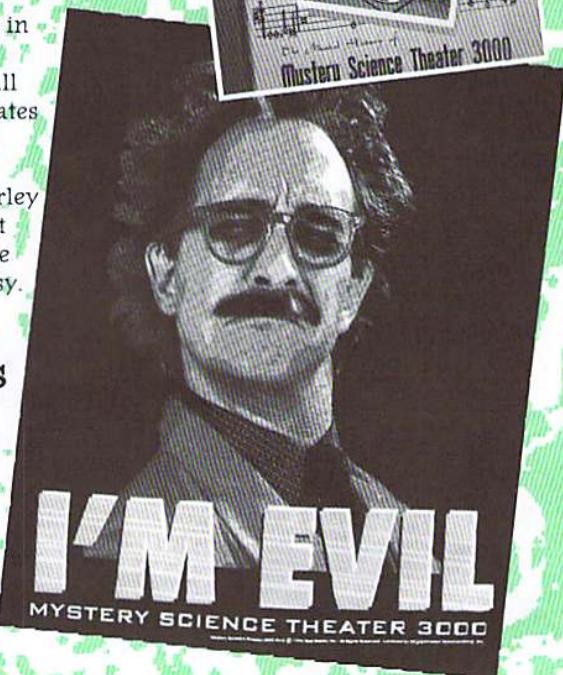
flew out the door!

Item #20 \$12.00



### CHARACTER POSTERS

Another item introduced at our Convention. Smaller than our classic poster, they measure 18" X 24", so frame Frank for your foyer, or hang Gypsy in your kitchen! Item #1B-Mike Item #1C-Crow Item #1D-Servo Item #1E-Gypsy Item #1F-Joel Item #1G-Dr. Forrester Item #1H-Frank \$6.00 each



### THE MST SILHOUETTE CAR SUNSHADE

Even if it's cold in Minnesota, the sun still shines! This big, sturdy cardboard sunshade sits on your dashboard and keeps your car from heating up, while Mike and the Bots appear at the bottom. Warning: Remove from windshield before driving! A great holiday gift! Item #28 \$7.00



## THE ORIGINAL POST-IT

This is the famous rectangular post-it with the famous shadow at the bottom with the famous Planet Logo orbitting above the 3M heavens! A great product at a low price! Packs of 50 sheets. Item 5B \$1.00

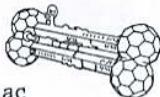
## COLOR POST-ITS

Nifty portraits of Crow, Tom Servo and Gypsy with appropriate two word sayings! Crow and "Bite Me!" Item #5C \$2.00 Servo and "I'm Huge!" Item #5D \$2.00 Gypsy and "Movie Sign!" Item #5E \$2.00



# SMALL TREASURES

## PINS



Say you're at the Grand Hotel on Mackinac Island, proudly wearing your MST T-Shirt. Suddenly it's dinner, and you have a wear a coat and a tie!

Or a dress! First of all, what the hell are you doing at the Grand Hotel on Mackinac Island? Second, you can wear one of these fine cloisonne-style pins!

Tastefully sized, with a sturdy clasp. Choose Crow, Servo, Gypsy, the Satellite of Love or our newest pin, the PLANET LOGO! Please specify.

Item #9A-Crow. Item #9B-Servo. Item #9C-Gypsy. Item #9D-Satellite of Love. Item #9E-Planet Logo \$3.00 each



## STICKERS

Crow, Servo and Gypsy's famous mugs on that pressure sensitive stuff. Cool beans for that sticker collector at your house.

10 Crow Stickers Item #26A \$1.25  
10 Servo Stickers Item #26B \$1.25  
10 Gypsy Stickers Item #26C \$1.25

## THE STATIC DECAL

But there's nothing static about it! Remember those dumb yet loveable decals you'd get in car model kits? Well this one is real big, about four inches in diameter, and it doesn't need water! Just press it on and pull it off any window or smooth surface at will!

Science! Features the classic MST Planet Logo you know and love. Item# 3A \$1.50

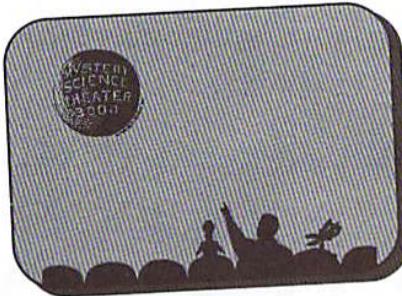


## MAGNETS

It's those three robots again in flattened form, plus our new PLANET LOGO MAGNET. Suitable for refrigerators or other metal things. Item #25A-Crow Item #25B-Servo Item #25C-Gypsy Item #25D-Planet Logo \$1.50 each

## RUBBER STAMPS

You "stampers" out there asked for them. A little ink is all you need! Crow Stamp Item #27A \$5.00  
Servo Stamp Item #27B \$5.00



## THE MAUS PAD

On every desktop at Best Brains, you'll find one of these babies under the mouse. Why? Not because we have to, but because we love to and we have to! This is a thick, sturdy die-cut slice of neoprene, dove grey, with the silhouette along the bottom, the logo floating in the heavens. They stink a little when you get 'em, but hey, so does a car. Item# 13A \$10.00

## JOEL AND 'BOT MUG

This is the original MST mug, emblazoned with the smiling face of Joel Hodgson as Joel Robinson!

Painstakingly hand-photographed by ace lensman Michael Kienitz, this dishwasher-safe, microwave-safe mug bears the full color cast of MST with Joel in the human role. So put some logs on the fire, fill your mug with cocoa, and watch your favorite Joel episode while sipping from your pals.

Item# 7B \$15.00



## THE MIKE MUG

Here's the whole cast playing tug-of-war at Gypsy's peril on a hefty, comfortable all-purpose mug. It's dishwasher and microwave safe, so it'll be around for a while, which

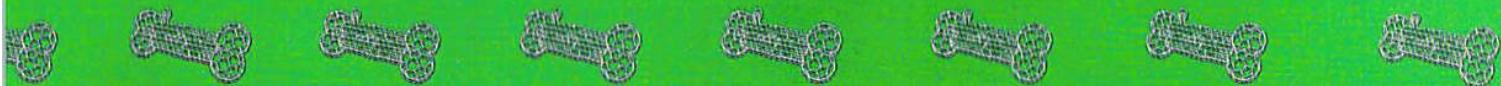
means it will be stolen many times before some clown drops it and you have to get a new one.

Item# 7A \$15.00



## THE POSTCARD 10-PAK

Here's a full color shot of each and every character, including Mrs. Forrester, plus an SOL & Deep 13 shot. Collect 'em all! Each has a pithy description on the back, penned by our own Paul and Mary Jo. Boy, they crack us up. 10-pak Item 6Z \$6.50



## MST POOPIE

Best Brains is proud to present this highly undignified and embarrassingly funny look up the pant leg of MST3K. MST Poopie has bots falling apart, sets crumbling, Crow cutting up, Servo goofing around, Joel forgetting lines, Trace ad-libbing hysterically, Mike going way off script, and Frank busting take after expensive take with his penchant for uncontrollable giggling. It's roughly thirty minutes of fun. Thank you, MST, for making us laugh, etc. Item# 18A \$15.00

## MST SCRAPBOOK

This is the collection many of our fans have been drooling to get their grubby little meathooks on! The MST Scrapbook is our loving look back at ourselves. Oh, sure it's self-love, but not in a sick way! We're proud of our little cow-town puppet show! And The MST Scrapbook takes you way behind the scenes, all the way back to the humble KTMA years, to views bits of shows promos and presentations. You'll see home videos of the Best Brains Years, from the construction of our sets, the shooting of the famous doorway sequence. You'll see samples of each season, each successive show open; many of our special effects; unseen footage from "This is MST3K"; snapshots, convention footage and many candid moments. The MST Scrapbook is over 90 minutes of the cast and crew at work and play, and many other rare and obscure tidbits you will never find anywhere else. Item# 19A \$22.50

## THE LIFE SURVIVAL KIT

These little beauties now come in our planet portfolio and are stuffed full of surprises, so lay down a five spot and give it a try! Includes the newest cast photo, Wacky Rolling Action Figure (some assembly required, marble not included), movie title list, theme song lyrics, and frequently asked questions. Item# 16A \$5.00

## THE POWER TEE

It's a 100% cotton pre-shrunk "Beefy-T" with our planet logo. It's a luscious black, with white puff paint logo, or white with black logo. Available in Adult's S, M, L, XL.  
Item# 17A (Black shirt) \$16.00  
Item# 21A (White shirt) \$16.00



## DEEP 13 T-SHIRT

Rickeracker, firecracker, sis-boom-bah! Deep 13! Deep 13! Rah-rah-raaahhh! Be part of the team, go over to the playfully evil side with this grey cotton tee, proudly bearing the Mad's logo and the words "Property of Deep 13 Athletics".  
Item# 15A \$16.00 Avbl.  
XL, L, M, S

## THE PORTFOLIO

Carry top secret documents in this high-quality glossy paper portfolio. Two to choose from with a nice big color photo of Mike and the Bots or our loveable planet logo on the front. Great for school, the Department of the Interior or any job or school which still requires you to carry paper around. \$1.75 Item# 10A-Cast, Item# 10B-Planet



## THE BUMPER STICKLERS

Make your car say something cute and innocuous! Five different sticklers in a pack: "HI KEEBA", "I'M HUGE", "OH, BITE ME, IT'S FUN", "JOIN US!", and of course, "MOVIE SIGN!" Item# 8A \$4.00 for 5-pak (Not available individually)

## VINTAGE CAST PHOTOS

Two cast photos destined to become collectors' items, if most people lose theirs and you still have one. Why tempt fate? The first is of Frank (nothin' but sweet lovin' Frank...) well, TV's Frank has gone on to a sort of TV Nirvana now, but we remember him with this lovely color cast photo of Forrester and Frank. Item 22B \$2.00 The second cast photo is of Joel and the 'Bots. Wasn't that a time? This step back to Season Three is a full-color delight, suitable for framing. Item 22A \$2.00



## BEST BRAINS TEES

Admit it, you've always wanted to be one of the Brains! Well, you can start by wearing the official Best Brains, Inc. tee-shirt! Our logo is printed in vivid "Forester" green and white on a standard black tee. And if someone asks you if you're Paul Chaplin, you can answer, "Sure!" Size S-XL. Item #34 \$16.00



# PATRICK BRANTSEG

by Paul Chaplin

Patrick Brantseg - also known as Gatwick, Pantleg, Posticker, Matlock, Remedy, Ted, Daniel Stern - is the new Artistic Director/ Prop Guy here at Best Brains. The more alert among you will realize he's actually been here for some time, working with Toolmaster Jef Maynard.

One wonders what it is about his background that's produced such a gentle and resourceful fellow?

Pat was born and reared in Sisseton, South Dakota, which by itself doesn't tell you much. But I met his parents during the 1994 ConventioCon, backstage at the live show. I think about them daily even now. His father, in retirement, has taken up the custom manufacture of golf clubs. Isn't that great? Doesn't that seem a fantastic thing for a father to do? And his mother? Hey, don't get me started. The briefest of conversations, like a tiny perfect diamond, was all I needed. She's lovely, with an open face and a quick mind and a great gentle heart.

Apply simplicity and love, and ba-boom! you get Patrick, who's charming and discrete in describing his varied background:

"I went to college for two years, at the U of M, and they asked me to leave. I went to Vo-Tech downtown for a little while... I worked at the Gopher Theater, I went a total of four times, one of those jobs where you just stop going... I worked at the Children's Palace, stocking toys from midnight to 6:30 in the morning. I'd get

home and eat a chicken salad sandwich and watch "The Flintstones."

He ignores, you'll notice, the obvious trend towards the creative, the playful, and above all the useful. "Do you want to hear about my rock and roll years?" he asks shyly. Of course we do!

"I was in a band called 'Blackspot.' The name comes from pirates. They'd rub a black spot on somebody's forehead and that would mean they'd have to be killed."

I offered in jest that these people could maybe just rub the black spots off, and Patrick laughed, and I felt good, and he felt good, and the point is that "Blackspot" is a fine, muscular name for a band, and Patrick, with his easy smile that would make your heart melt, has produced nothing but fine muscular props ever since he started.

He says his favorite part of the work is taking the descriptions penned in panic by us writers and turning them into reality, and boy is he good at that. "Like - 'Servo polishes his car,'" he explained. "That's four words, but it's a lot of work." As a writer, I began to feel guilty, but he didn't mean for me to. He never would.



Even more versatile than potatoes, Patrick Brantseg (left) stands in for Doctor Forrester.

He says he's proudest of some of the work he's already done for our new season, which unfortunately we can't talk about. I will just say that we've got these little new characters for the SOL, and Patrick has done such a wonderful job on them. They're cute, they're funny, and he made them real in a way I couldn't have imagined. He's as much a part of the creative team as anyone. I hope he realizes that.

Asked to comment, Mike Nelson reported that Pat came up with his best nickname— "Nelsteratu." Mary Jo agreed in principle with my assessment of Mr. Brantseg, but she was busy browsing the Al Gore web site and so had no specific comment.

Patrick is just about the coolest guy I know. Thank you.

## BARBARA TEBBEN, INFO CLUB POOBAH PERSON EXTRAODINAIRE

by Mary Jo Pelt

We at Mystery Science Theater 3000 are pleased to announce that our very own Barbara Tebben has taken over as Info Club Poobah. Julie Walker has left Best Brains for Los Angeles, CA. Barb is a power-mad monomaniacal military strong-man demagogue who enjoys gardening. Barb has been with Best Brains since she started working here.

Barb was a temp here first, assisting Julie with fan club orders, opening fan club mail and generally walking around the office. With Julie's departure, Barb will be taking over all of Julie's duties, including jumping on the information super-highway and communicating with our fans on "The Net", as well as maintaining and tracking merchandise orders for the fan club.

We are very pleased that Barb is with us, as she demonstrates initiative, she's a team player and a real "people person", and she's a terrific gal. Plus, she's a delight to have around and she's really funny. Plus she came to a baby-shower that I helped throw and it was really bad, and it was a blessing that Barb was there.

Barb comes to us from Bangkok, Thailand, she makes her home in Novia Scotia, British Columbia, has been married to her husband seventy-seven years and has a fourteen year old son who is a boy.

Remember: Barb Tebben—a name you can trust.



## ADDRESSES

MST Fan Club:  
P.O. Box 5325  
Hopkins, MN 55343

Web Sites: (Sci Fi Channel):  
<http://www.scifi.com/mst3000>  
(FAQ): <http://members.aol.com/mstienews/>

AOL: [Barbbb@aol.com](mailto:Barbbb@aol.com)

COMPUSERVE:  
Showbiz Forum, Scifi Media  
Forum

Internet: <rec.arts.tv.mst3k.misc>  
AND <rec.arts.tv.mst3k.announce>

# RHINO HOME VIDEO

For the viewing pleasure of all MST3K fans, Rhino Home Video has released two additional episodes of the Mystery Science Theater 3000 series, "Pod People" and "The Brain That Wouldn't Die".

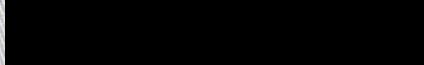
Joel Hodgson, along with Crow and Tom Servo, add their delightful humor to "Pod People". Watch aliens who resemble Snufalufagus, a bad band in the woods and egg poachers along with Tom Servo doing his best Yoda impression.

In "The Brain That Wouldn't Die" Mike Nelson and pals comment along to the tale of a surgeon searching for the perfect body to attach to his fiancee's head (she was decapitated but still lives). This is the premiere of the new theme song arrangement and Mike Nelson's first show as host.

"Pod People" and "The Brain That Wouldn't Die" are available at local video stores or through Rhino Direct at 1-800-432-0020. Each title will retail for \$19.95.

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